

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 02877 112226 Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 043793

R 111642 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8250

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2877

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR VT VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU AT VATICAN

REF: ROME 2843

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT THIEU TOLD PRESS THAT DURING HOUR ALONE WITH POPE THEY DISCUSSED RECONCILIATION IN VIETNAM AND QUESTION OF PRISONERS, WHICH HE TOLD POPE EXAGGERATED COMMUNIST LIE. SUBJECT OF FORMING CATHOLIC POLITICAL PARTY NOT RAISED. LOCAL PRESS READ INTO VATICAN HANDLING OF VISIT A DESIRE BY VATICAN " TO TAKE DISTANCE FROM THIEU." WE HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH RESPONSIBLE VATICAN OFFICIAL APR 13 AND WILL REPORT THEIR VIEWS AT THAT TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT THIEU MET WITH POPE PAUL FOR ONE HOUR APR 9 DURING WHICH, ACCORDING TO WHAT THIEU TOLD PRESS SAME AFTER-NOON, THEY DISCUSSED MAINLY QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND PRISONERS. THIEU SAID HE TOLD POPE THAT " PROBLEM OF SO-CALLED POLITICAL PRISONERS IS AN ENORMOUS COMMUNIST LIE." WHEN ASKED BY JOURNALIST WHAT POPE SAID, THIEU REPLIED THAT POPE HAD NOTHING TO BOSERVE. DISPLAYING BOOK WHICH HE CLAIMED CONTAINED NAMES OF 67,502 PERSONS HELD ILLEGALLY BY COMMUNISTS, HE CALLED ON COMMUNISTS TO PRODUCE LIST OF 200,000 PRISONERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 02877 112226 Z

WHOM THEY ALLEGE HIS GOVERNMENT HOLDING. THIEU EXPLAINED, AS HE HAD TO POPE, THAT IN SOUTH VIETNAM THERE ARE 21,007 COMMON CRIMINALS INCARCERATED PLUS 5,081 " UL.

2. AS NOTED ABOVE, PRESENT NATO INTELLIGENCE DISTRIBUTION

IS NOT CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE. AS REGARDS FORM AND CONTENT, IT IS BELIEVED THAT BROAD CIRCULATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE BODY OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BEARING ON THE INTENTIONS, CAPABILITIES AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPEAN NATIONS IS USEFUL. THIS COULD INCLUDE MORE DETAIL, THAN AT PRESENT, ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS EXERCISES AND TRAINING, REINFORCEMENT AND REPLACEMENT POLICY, AND DOCTRINE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO RELATE THESE MILITARY ITEMS TO POLITICAL STANCE AND LONG AND SHORT RANGE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. THE EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL VANTAGE POINTS REPRESENTED BY NATO HEAD-QUARTERS AND THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDS OFFER UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REPORTING ON- GOING EVENTS. NATIONAL AUTHORITIES COULD CONTRIBUTE THEIR OWN ANALYSES TO BE USED IN- HOUSE BY NATO AUTHORITIES OR PREFERABLY GIVEN NATO- WIDE DISSEMINATION.

ROGERS

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730441/aaaaihab.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 2843
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971229
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU AT VATICAN
TAGS: PFOR, VS, VT
To: EUR
JEC PARIS
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005